

pin **5c** is also higher than that carried with the conventional flat tip. The pin **5d** shown in Figure **6D** has two V-shape notches crossing at right angles at its cylindrical head end. With this pin, a greater amount of a probe solution can be picked up and spotting accuracy may be enhanced. This pin also allows easy transferring of the probe solution from the tip of the pin onto a plate.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute claims 4-6 and 8-10 with the following amended claims:

4. A spotting pin formed to spot a solution containing at least one reagent on a plate, which comprises a solid member, wherein the solid member has at least one recess formed only at a head end thereof, said head end being formed to carry the reagent within the recess to the plate, wherein the recess comprises at least one groove.
5. The spotting pin of claim 4, wherein the recess comprises a cross-shaped groove.
6. A spotting pin formed to spot a solution containing at least one reagent on a plate, which comprises a solid member, wherein the solid member has at least one recess formed only at a head end thereof, said head end being formed to carry the reagent within the recess to the plate, wherein the recess comprises at least one V-shaped notch.
8. The spotting pin of claim 4, wherein the recess is shaped concave with a cross-shaped groove therein.
9. A spotting pin formed to spot a solution containing at least one reagent on a plate, which comprises a solid member, wherein the solid member has a flat head end and at least one groove or V-shaped notch formed only at the head end, said head end being formed to carry the reagent therein to the plate.

10. The spotting pin of claim 9, wherein the head end comprises two V-shaped notches crossing each other.

Please add new claims as follows:

11. The spotting pin of claim 9, wherein the head end comprises a cross-shaped groove.
12. The spotting pin of claim 4, wherein the recess is shaped concave.
13. The spotting pin of claim 6, wherein the recess comprises two V-shaped notches crossing each other.